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# THE CANADIAN RAILROADER



SPIKING THE GUNS OF THE  
FARMERS

AN INTERESTING LOOK AT OUR  
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OTTAWA, LONDON AND SCOTTISH LETTERS

*From Our Own Correspondents.*

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FIFTH SUNDAY  
MEETING ASSOCIATION  
OF CANADA

MONTREAL, JUNE 5th, 1920

Vol. 2, No. 23

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# Spiking The Guns

(By GEORGE PIERCE.)

WHEN the opportunity presented itself, I asked a gentleman who was very closely associated with the western farmer movement, why they did not support the agitation for a scientific, advisory Tariff Board, in light of the fact that the farmers in the United States were the prime movers in the reform which eventually resulted in the establishment of such a Board at Washington. He presented the usual vague and generalizing arguments, ending always with the declaration that the tariff cannot be taken out of politics, which I answered with the arguments familiar to our readers, substantiating the fact that no one advocated that the powers of parliament should be usurped by a Board or Commission, but that the desirable thing was to take politics out of the tariff, as the Americans have already done, and as all enlightened nations have been doing for years. Finally I asked the point-blank question, "Give me the specific reasons why you farmers are opposed to a scientific Tariff Board. If you will give me direct answers, I will attempt to prove you that your objections are not defensible." His answer came slowly, deliberately, with an air of exasperated finality. "There is no argument", he said, "that can be advanced against the appointment of a Tariff Board, but the farmers have been welded together under the cry of 'free trade' and we do not propose to have our guns spiked at the eleventh hour. We are able to put seventy members in the House of Commons and we mean to seat them there."

Amazement disconcerted me for a moment. I found it difficult to grasp the full meaning of this extraordinary declaration. With reflection came composure enough for me to ask this question: "Do you mean to say

that the farmers of Canada are solely intent upon winning a political election, and is it a fact that no matter how desirable, how unassailable, the principles and the application of a scientific advisory Tariff Board may be, it is opposed by the agriculturist solely because it does not offer the vehicle for political success for this sectional movement?" And the answer came back with stubborn inflexibility, "This is the eleventh hour. No one shall spike our guns with a Tariff Board." To put it into plain English, it would read this way. "For years and years we have been educating the farmers to a free trade policy, and now that better methods have been discovered — scientific, business methods, — we dare not go back to the rank and file advocating a scientific Board because if we were to do so we would disrupt the movement which is founded on the free trade cry. It would be politically disastrous, in other words, to take politics out of the tariff by sanctioning an advisory Tariff Board."

The farmer group, with the elimination of the tariff as a political issue, would be put to the necessity of adopting a new battle-cry, and this is the reason why the advisory Tariff Board is such a nettlesome subject to the farmer movement. This is the meaning of this political action, that the farmer is prepared to ignore reconstructive and constructive measures, no matter how beneficial they are proven to be. If they threaten the political ascendancy of the agrarian movement, the death-knell is rung. The lamentable fact is disclosed in the debates on the tariff, that our present Government is angling for western votes to such a degree that the advocates of the scientific Tariff Board are meeting reactionary obstacles at every turn in the road.

If this Government and the farmer movement are of the opinion that the working people of this Dominion are going to be crucified at each election by depressions in business, unemployment, accumulating debts, and heavy taxation, merely to stage a tariff sham-battle for the special benefit of ambitious politicians who are solely intent upon electing themselves to office, then we say to you, your guns will not only be spiked, but we will utterly destroy them.

The problems facing all Canadians are insistently serious. This is not the time, and this country is not the place, to play old games of politics on the bowed and broken backs of the working population. This is the day of scientific efficiency. Its opponents are men of the old school who don't realize that a new day has dawned. The business and the working interests of this country demand a Tariff Board. Only the poli-



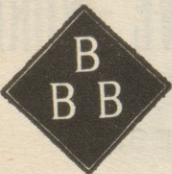
Samuel Gompers, veteran leader of the American Federation of Labor, who will preside at the convention in Montreal during the incoming week.

tician opposes it, and the farmer, but in these days the farmer is some politician. From the humble grain-grower in Athabasca, to the multimillionaire farmer in parliament, is a long, long road, but all along the way, on each fence post, sits a little bird singing the songs of the free trader, but when elections come along and the smoke of battle clears away, all the fence-post canaries have hid themselves to unknown woodlands.

Our agriculturists may be astonished to find that a lot of good citizens in this Dominion have decided that this country shall not be

the scrap-heap of the world. To be the dumping ground under a fiscal policy of free trade is not the policy of the empire builders of our day who see visions of a Canada of fifty million population. We that have persistently advocated the middle course as represented in a Tariff Board, thank neither the Government nor the farmer for their present attitudes on the appointment of a Tariff Board. One will regret as much as the other the reactionary tendencies manifested by both.

The simple truth is, each is spiking his own gun in opposing a Tariff Board.



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## "Outlaw" Leaders of Railroaders Making Promises They Cannot Keep

Mr. W. G. Lee, President of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, has issued a special circular warning members that "outlaw" leaders, who were brimming over with promises of what they would do for the men if they would help to disrupt the brotherhoods, and act in their own account, had no standing with the United States Railway Labor Board and were not in a position to do anything for those who followed their banners.

Following is the circular in part:—

Cleveland, Ohio, May 26, 1920.

To Officers and Members,  
Brotherhood of Railroad  
Trainmen.

Sirs and Brothers:

In order to fully apprise the membership of the latest developments regarding the pending wage movement, and to set at rest the false, malicious and misleading propaganda that is being circulated by those who attempted to destroy the Brotherhood and its influence, by inducing our members to leave their employment on promises of relief and immediate increases in pay, and in order to inform our members against the improper and inaccurate reports circulated by the press and other agencies that desire to see the railroad labor organizations disrupted and destroyed, the following is issued for your information:

The United States Railroad Labor Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Transportation Act, which provided that permanent headquarters would be established in Chicago, resumed their hearings in Chicago on Monday, May 17th, 1920, and the carriers commenced the presentation of their data bearing on the wage requests which had been presented by the eighteen standard recognized railroad labor organizations, and are proceedings as rapidly as possible. Despite the prompt action being taken by the Board and the efforts being put forward by the organizations to have these wage questions disposed of, the Board is continually and repeatedly being designed by a corps of men who have struck, resigned or left the service of the railroads. These people have circulated all kinds of reports about the Brotherhood, and have given out all kinds of threats to bolster up their "rump" movement, by holding out assurances that they were going to be heard before the Board are going to get the men almost everything. The truth of the matter is that these so-called representatives have not now, and never have been given any consideration by the United States Railroad Labor Board, other than to deny their requests for hearings.

Every indication seems to point to the fact that a prompt and speedy adjustment will be had on pending wage questions, and our members

should bear in mind that there is not a thing to be gained by being impatient or restless concerning the final disposition of the wage question.

Attention is especially called to the fact that orderly methods and compliance with the laws of the country and of our organization is the only proper and safe course to pursue. Representatives of these strikers no doubt are being sent over the country to try to induce men to leave the service on false promises that they are going to get a hearing before the Labor Board and an adjustment of all grievances, with a guarantee that the men who have struck in violation of their obligation as members of the various Brotherhoods will all be re-instated in the service.

Their chief stock in trade seems to be the holding out of false hopes and promises to our men that they are going to get results. Literature is being circulated and hand-bills posted declaring for a "one big union", as and evidence of how these strikers are lining up against the Brotherhoods, your attention is especially called to the fact that these so-called leaders have ostensibly set out with a programme of intimidation against men who have remained loyal to the Brotherhoods. Therefore, if anyone should approach you with applications or promises that they are going to get results for you, disregard them, because they have no standing and cannot and will not be heard by the United States Railroad Labor Board, and I would ask that our membership be not swept off their feet into the "one big union" movement, which means the destruction of the organized labor movement in this country. Their promises cannot be fulfilled.

The representative of the Brotherhood is attending the conference before the Labor Board and all of the organizations are co-operating in an endeavor to have the pending wage question disposed of at the earliest possible moment. There is no reason for further alarm in connection with this matter, as we are convinced that everything is being done, and the United States Railroad Labor Board is working hard in order to arrive at a just and proper conclusion.

Fraternally yours,

W. G. LEE,  
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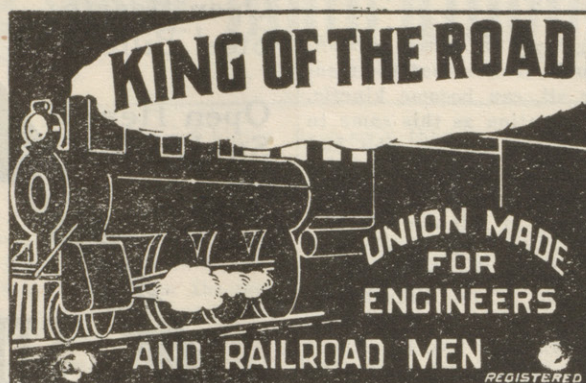
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# Setting Books in Motion

(By WALLACE MEYER, of the American Library Association, in *The Survey*, New York.)

Sitting in a public library, have you ever been aware of a vague disquiet over the vast, potential energy walled in around you, of a sense that there was something—the stored mind of the world—which, despite the readers present, was overharnessed, was not properly at work? Probably you felt like addressing a sudden admonition to the librarians stepping neatly among card catalogues not to be too much concerned with the minutiae of their work as operators of the intellectual powerhouse, for here, in their charge, was a force which, if rightly activated and released, would blast its way through a whole stubborn world of ignorance and superstition and intolerance.

But if you saw books forsake their prim library shelves, forget for the time their call numbers and card catalogues, and go out along the

country highways in search of readers, you would realize that their energy, after all, can become kinetic.

Such a realization as this came to the mind of the woman who had spent the hours of twilight and early dark in the library bus on the Mesaba iron range in Minnesota. She lay awake, as does the person who has met a stimulating experience.

"I wondered if the libraries of the future wouldn't be like great warehouses, and the books sent out from them be delivered from door to door like groceries. Now I could understand the commercial success of the Jewel tea man and the lighting rod agent who brought something of novelty, personality and interest along with their wares. The warm, human, personal interest of the bus librarian no doubt is the means of translating the cold written word to throbbing life for her patrons, and her weekly coming a point of contact with outside interest. After all, that idea is not new; witness the swarms of travelling salesmen who do that very thing."

She had gained her new appreciation of the travelling salesman's methods in the course of one of the evening trips of the Hibbing public library bus, a two-ton motor van set with windows, lined with shelves holding twelve hundred books, and containing the librarian's desk and a long leather-covered seat for the entering patrons. Leaving Hibbing at six o'clock, the library car had sounded the gong at its first mining camp destination at six-thirty. After that, for three hours, the car was thronged by nationalities in relays. At the first stop Italians swarmed in, bringing little Vendettas and Nicolettas and Pasquales to be held in the librarian's arms and admired while the parents picked out Italian and English books in an atmosphere of garlic and voluble confusion. The next relay was Finnish, with Ainos and Limpis and Helgas held in arms, and grave, stern adults who selected the week's supply of reading matter with silent deliberation. Then on to a Croatian-Slovenian location, with a sprinkling of Swedes and Norwegians and an occasional Irishman. Last of all, at nine-fifteen, a location where patrons were almost wholly Americans of several generations' standing. Here the arrival of the library car quite upset domestic routine for the evening, for, as one mother explained, "The children usually fall asleep on the lounge before you come, and of course we have to wake them up when the gong rings, and then they're cross—but if we don't wake them up they're crosser still."

And this was but one schedule in the weekly round, for by daylight and evening trips the Hibbing library car covers its entire township of 60 square miles once each week, stopping at road camps, boarding



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house and farmhouses with only an occasional skip, such as the two "hopeless" cases on one route—the retired minister who won't let his wife read, and the man whose dog declines to discriminate between travelling librarians and travelling mendicants.

Hibbing and its township of Stuntz is one of the bright spots on the rural library map of the United States. If a map of the country were shaded to indicate the areas within which people do not have access to free public libraries, the prevailing tone would be black. The United States Bureau of Education has compiled statistics to show that of a total population of 91,641,215 for the forty-eight states, based on the 1910 census, only 41,180,591 persons have access to free public libraries. If we test the library service which these forty-one millions are receiving by some arbitrary standard of adequacy, we shall have to shade our map still further. Only 36,501,852 persons have access to a library of 5,000 volumes or more—the minimum strength at which a library, in the opinion of the Bureau of Education, can be expected to assume the initiative in extending its service throughout its community. Of the 2,964 counties in the United States only 794, or 27 per cent, have within their respective confines a public library of 5,000 volumes or more.

Viewing the states severally, we find in the Bureau of Education's compilation a wide range—in Massachusetts 99.6 per cent of population has access to free public libraries, in South Carolina only 1.9 per cent. Thirty states show less than 50 per cent.

We may be sure that the extension work of the Hibbing Public Library, whose library truck is a recent innovation, has effectively reclaimed the township of Stuntz from the black area on the library map. It is infinitely suggestive of measures which might be adapted to the local needs of county and township units all over the country. It suggests possibilities latent in a concerted nation-wide effort to build up public library service—an effort which is embodied in the enlarged programme

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of the American Library Association.

Returning to their peace-time activities from the war task of providing library services for the fighting forces, librarians of the country carried with them a profound conviction of the value of joint action. Last September, the executive board of the American Library Association adopted a nation-wide programme of library extension which later was approved by the membership, comprising more than four thousand librarians, after modification and amplification, and recently has been presented to the general public as a project deserving popular support. Like most projects which are put up squarely to the public, it carries with it the necessity of financial support — a fund of \$2,000,000 which will enable the American Library Association to assume the functions of a national library commission. The association can then serve as a promotion agency for public library service all over the country, assisting state library commissions to meet their problems and performing much needed work in states without state library extension agencies until legislators, convinced by this work of demonstration, create state commissions adequately supported by appropriations. Communities desiring to establish public library service will have the help of expert organizers, and public libraries everywhere will benefit by a campaign of education in the possibilities of library service and the need for increased municipal support. The function of the A. L. A. throughout will be one of assistance and demonstration and not of permanent direct service, for the work of every public library eventually must stand solidly on its own bottom, deriving its support from the community which it serves.

Nothing so quickly convinces the skeptic of the value of adequate library service as actual demonstra-

tion. The well-organized and highly efficient system of libraries built up by the American Library Association for the army and navy during the war is being continued by the War and Navy Departments, and adequate library service for the men of the military establishments is now assured. The great chain of hospitals of the United States Public Health Service affords another illustration of the effectiveness of a demonstration of direct service in these hospitals in the continuation of an activity begun as a part of the war programme; there is now every prospect that it will soon be placed on a permanent basis and that the association can be relieved of any but an advisory responsibility. Direct library service to the merchant marine of which more than 1,500 vessels have been supplied with libraries, is welcomed so eagerly by merchantmen to give assurance that this eventually will be assumed by shipping interests as a part of their present far-sighted programme for making life in the American merchant marine attractive and profitable.

In its plans for encouraging rural library service, the outstanding project to which the association stands pledged is the promotion of the country library. In Washington county, Maryland, for instance, in the foothills of the Cumberlands, books first ventured forth on wheels in a horse-drawn vehicle viewed with suspicion by the mountaineers as a "dead wagon". A coat of bright red paint dispelled the moribund effect, and the book wagon rapidly won the confidence of the country-folk, to perish eventually in collision with a freight train. A motor truck took up the task.

In Endicott, N. Y., the book has solved the problem of a librarian who was not reaching the foreign-born section "across the tracks." Even in New England, where libraries now cover the territory more

uniformly than in any other section of the country, the book wagon or its winter equivalent opens up new avenues of service for the librarian. In the winter of 1910 the field agent of the Connecticut Library Commission started out with a horse and sleigh and a case of fifty books to try the experiment of house-to-house distribution in a district not reached by existing libraries. The first day's results were discouraging; the second day was little better. When the venture was repeated a month later, however, the returns were gratifying; the news had spread and at almost every house requests were waiting from new patrons. The service was extended to five townships. Before long the town where the prospect had seemed the slightest decided to establish a public library—a direct result of demonstration.

Travelling collections, shipped by parcel post or express into the rural districts, pave the way for country libraries. Practically every state with a library extension agency has utilized this form of service; New York was the pioneer, in 1893. Everywhere the tendency is to develop this service to allow dwellers in the open country more latitude in the choice of books. Comments such as this from an old New Jersey farmer have aided the library commission of that state to build up its effective traveling service:

"Seems like folks down to the State House think because I'm a farmer I want to spend my nights reading about fertilizers. Bless your heart! I don't. I want to git out and above fertilizers. I want to read something, say, about the stars I see every night. I would admire to know 'em all by name, and when one of 'em comes peekin' round the corn crib, to say, 'Why, there's old man Jupiter, familiar and knowin' like' "

Some states are meeting their library extension problems ably, through the work of efficient state commissions; others are meeting them half-heartedly, with state commissions crippled for lack of appropriations and without real legislative or public support; still others are meeting them not at all and show slight promise of beginning. Working in cooperation with state commissions and working toward their establishment in states where they now are lacking, the American Library Association can make an adequate, nation-wide public library service an accomplished fact. Until every community is providing its members with opportunity for self-education, the situation is one of concern for the nation.



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GEO. PIERCE, Editor.      KENNEDY CRONE, Associate Editor.

## Welcome to the A.F. of L.

**W**ELCOME to the eight hundred delegates to the fortieth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor which opens in Montreal this week! These delegates represent close on five million workers by hand and brain in the United States and Canada.

For the first time railroaders will be official delegates at an A. F. of L. convention, two of the brotherhoods having made alliance within the past year, with the prospect that the others will follow. Although not allied to the A. F. of L., the members of the joint general committee of the Brotherhood of Railroad Conductors and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, meeting on other matters in Montreal this week, have been invited to the convention, together with local officials and members of the brotherhoods.

With the railroad brotherhoods within the A. F. of L., the organization would be well on the way to a membership of six millions, probably the most powerful co-operative movement for economic and social purposes in any country in the world.

Appropriately enough, the convention is to be opened with prayer. What will be needed in the convention if it is to clear the shoals and reach the haven of its great fundamental purposes is the spirit of brotherhood, of humanity, of service, of give-and-take, of bear and forbear, of orderly progress, and these are largely mental states and visions rather than product of the cold language of constitutions and by-laws, rules and regulations, or of the atmosphere of machine politics and opportunistic propaganda. To the scrapheap with laws and forms if they are not right and just to all people, not rightly interpreted and applied for the good of all the people!

There is no doubt that many veterans in the long struggle for the economic and personal freedom of the workers, for the protection of the humble home and the safety and happiness of women and children, will reflect the greater visions; if only all reflected it, what a still more wonderful brotherhood the wonderful A. F. of L. might be!

Thorny problems will arise at the convention. There may even be a vigorous slash at the very pillars of the international labor movement. The international labor movement may have to do some self-searching—or use the big stick. Let's hope for the solidarity of labor that there will be more self-searching than big stick. Let's hope for an all-round mental state and vision transcending the mere machinery of such a great and useful organization as the American Federation of Labor.

K. C.

### AUTO TRACK DANGERS IN LAFONTAINE PARK

**P**ROBABLY most of you read the article in last week's Railroader on the many charms and social uses of Lafontaine Park. I would like to say, however, that this fine pleasure-haunt, circled by ear tracks, is further detracted from by the automobile track which rings it and is a part of the park grounds. Persons entering the park have at all its main points to cross two traffic-ways, and there is not even an island sidewalk between. Getting into the park is a sharp game of dodging street cars, autos and other traffic coming from four points, and many accidents have occurred, particularly to children. Every now and then a child is killed at the Rachel street and Park Lafontaine street entrance to the park. The auto track in the park is largely used as a speedway and by beginners learning to drive, thereby intensifying its dangers to the pedestrian. Many parents prohibit their children from going to the park unattended on account of the risks of accident at entering and leaving. The auto track should be abolished altogether and thus render more accessible and more safe one of the best of Canadian parks and playgrounds.

K. C.

### WHAT ABOUT BOILING LOBSTERS ALIVE?

**T**HE S. P. C. A. has objected to grasshoppers being killed by poison gas on the ground of cruelty. I wonder if the S. P. C. A. is aware that in dozens of Montreal hotels and restaurants every day, lobsters are boiled alive in order to retain

their flavor. A friend tells me that boiling alive is the common practice, and that usage has made us indifferent to it. If the grasshopper is to be defended against a painful death, why not the lobster, too?

K. C.

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## Anti-Marriage Taxation

(By COLIN McKAY)

OUR wise government having given the war profiteers a run for their money now imposes a tax on little girls' hair ribbons, the fabric of the stenographer's shirtwaists, and wedding rings. Possibly the ribbon a poor woman buys to tie up a little girl's hair is a luxury; but it is a very important item in the little girl's existence. Possibly, also, a wedding ring is a luxury; but it is usually considered a necessity of the marriage ceremony.

A well-to-do woman can pay a high price for a silk shirtwaist and apparently escape taxation. But the day after the budget was brought down a stenographer went to a store and bought the material for a silk or near-silk waist — price \$4.50. She was required a tax of 45 cents on her purchase. Isn't this an anomaly? If there is a tax on silk fabric that the consumer has to pay and no tax on a silk shirtwaist costing less than \$45, there is discrimination with a vengeance against the poor woman who has to make her own clothes. Or does the Government mean to serve notice on the public that wearing silk fabric is the exclusive privilege of the rich? Possibly we may have a ruling from the Minister of Finance which will resolve this anomaly, but meantime there it is — a flagrant piece of discrimination.

The Government's "luxury taxes" ought to have been steeply graduated so as to place the greater burden on the rich. If it is necessary to impose a ten per cent. tax on a little girl's hair ribbon, there would be justification for placing a fifty per cent. tax on the expensive ribbon with which the millionaire's wife adorns her lingerie. If it is necessary to place a fifty per cent. tax on the wedding ring, there would be justification in placing an eighty per cent. tax on the signet ring of the rich man or the expensive jewelry of the wealthy woman.

Our Dominion debt is about \$250 per capita. Adding provincial and municipal debts we get a considerably higher figure. The Western Independent estimates that every citizen of Calgary carries a public debt of \$748—about \$3,740 per family. As a means of lessening the burden of debt the western journal advocates immigration. A bright idea no doubt. The Dominion Government apparently does not believe in encouraging marriage among the natives, or it regards a wife as a luxury. At any rate, it has placed a fifty per cent. tax on wedding rings, and engagement rings too.

If the luxury tax was graduated like an income tax it would doubtless be a good device to curb the extravagance of the rich. But it affects prices which are within the

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range of a decent standard of living, and to some extent strikes at the standard of living of the better-paid workers. Of course the worker ought to pay his share of the cost of war directly; it will arouse his interest in the League of Nations or any other device to prevent wars. But it is evident that indirectly the worker will pay a large share of the "luxury taxes", and directly his share of the burden will also be much greater in proportion to his ability to bear it than that of the rich man.

The Union Government need not have waited till the soldiers returned home to impose stiff taxes. If it had taxed the profits of the war contractors instead of offering them an opportunity to invest their profits in tax exempt bonds, the war tax need not to have been so great, nor the present taxes so heavy.

## OUR JUNE HORRORSCOPE

June is the month when people begin to wear smiles, flowers and overalls instead of underalls. This is a delightful time to go walking in the woods, playing in the streets, picking violets and gandelions, picking fights with summer boarding-house keepers. The season is also very propitious for strikes, riots, raids, mosquitoes and other amusements.

The lucky flower for this month is the spinach. The unlucky stone is a brick. Diamonds are very good to have in the hand, provided they run high enough. Spades also come in very handy, especially in the garden. The cops will swing clubs freely, and hearts will be won and broken quite as in the days of Adam and Eve.

Lasting friendships will be formed this month. Do not make friends, however, with a mad dog, or a wild cat, for that matter. Keep away from the movies, unless you have the price. Do not cross the street in front of an automobile. If you are seeking happiness, you will find that making your friends happy will bring results. The best way to make your friends happy is to get them to subscribe to the Canadian Railroader at \$2 a year.



## SIDE-LINES

(By Kennedy Crone.)

USUALLY at this time of the year some poet persons rave about the perfume of the lilac. I have just been reading some fine lines which almost seem to impart the fragrance of the flowers. At the same time I know I am breathing the perfumes of the north-end dump, the aroma of a neglected stable and the incense of the dusty streets, all blended together in a sensation to the nose that poets and all other persons might well rave about.

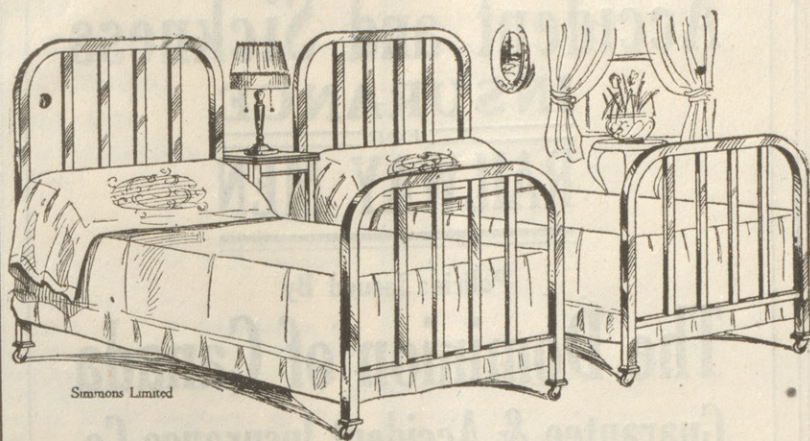
Perhaps ten years ago I wrote in the papers about this dump, and I personally saw Dr. Louis Laberge, then health officer, about it. Yes; something would be done. Well, you know the speed of the old civic administration in regard to real things on behalf of the people. Also, you should know the apathy of the ordinary Montreal citizen. He will get all het up for a week about something or other in relation to the city, and thereafter he will forget all about it; or if he remembers at all, he will only revive sufficiently to say things about the City Hall and throw up his hands with a "what's the use!" He is quite blind to the fact that he is really the person to blame in the first instance, as the civic administration is, after all, precisely what the people themselves allow to exist.

At anyrate, nothing substantial was done. I think that there was some kind of temporary effort at deodorizing the dump with chemicals, but I am not sure. I know that for the last two weeks of May, nineteen hundred and twenty, the odors of the dump would test the abilities of any poetical genius.

The north-end dump is in the north-east corner of St. Denis ward, a large vacant space half-covered with garbage, though I am told it is marked on civic maps as a public park, with St. Joseph Boulevard cutting across it. Perhaps you know the Boulevard with its broad concrete pavements and its lovely streets and grass plots. It stops dead several hundred yards before the dump, where the middle-class residences end and the working-class district begins. It simply could not go any further. If you dropped a piece of paper on St. Joseph Boulevard—that is probably a policeman would pinch you, but apparently you can drop bales of paper, tin cans, offal, any old thing, on St. Joseph Boulevard-to-be.

All through the summer days and nights, when windows should be open, many people in the district close their windows in an effort to keep out the odor of the dump. The William Dawson School, with 1200 children, gets the full blast of the dump in the class rooms.

So, when you think of lilac-time, don't forget to couple it with dump-time and think the thing over.



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## A MODERN SCHOOL

Here are some of the things that were going on in a Montclair, New Jersey, school the other day:

(1) A group of pupils with dolls were setting and arranging a tea table.

(2) Another group were learning to make a bed, the bed being about two feet long.

(3) A "sand-table project" was under construction.

(4) A house was being built and furnished with wooden blocks.

(5) Several children were making articles out of paper—a seesaw, a motion picture booth and a store.

(6) A little girl was hemming sheets for a bed about six inches in length.

Incidentally, a reading lesson was going on under the direction of the teacher, and every child in the reading class appeared to be giving 100 per cent. attention. "Not the slightest confusion existed," says the school official who observed the class. "All work was definite and clean cut. Pupils were learning something not found in books."

## WORKERS' PUBLIC OWNERSHIP POLICY

At the annual convention of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario, held at Brantford on Victoria Day, the workers' policy in regard to public ownership was defined as follows:

That whereas the principle of Government ownership is being applied increasingly to public utilities as a means of more equitable administration in the interests of both producer and consumer; and whereas there is great need for a clear declaration from the workers as to the fundamental difference between private or corporate ownership and public ownership in principles of administration.

Therefore be it resolved that this annual convention of the Ontario Labor Educational Association go on record as favoring the administration of our great public utilities and such other utilities as may in the future be publicly owned and reported with a view to allow the best of living and social conditions.

1.—To allow the workers involved in construction operation and administration;

2.—To produce the maximum of efficiency of service at a cost based upon the above and proper provision for reserves necessary to cover depreciation, renewals, etc., and

Therefore be it further resolved that the workers extend every effort through the constitutional means within their power to obtain the appointment of Labor men on public service commissions, and all public bodies having the power to appoint such commissions.



## OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

(From our own correspondent)

Glasgow, May 7.

A strike of the "unemployed" continues in Dumfries and Maxwelltown, and the Town Councils are making no move to meet the men. Following an unemployment agitation, numbers of men were given employment on road-making by the Town Council in connection with the new housing schemes. They were paid at the rate of 28c. per hour, but the men were only at work for about a fortnight, when they put in a demand for 35c. an hour. This was refused by the Town Councils, and a strike was declared. About eight of the regular employees of the Cleansing Department of Dumfries Town Council came out in sympathy with the temporary workers. Their places have been filled.

### Haul of Back Pay

Stirlingshire Education Authority at the week-end distributed \$150,000 among its teachers. The staff numbers close on 1,000, and the

money was the difference between the teachers' salaries a year ago and the new scale granted in May, 1919. Some of the higher-paid masters drew over \$750, and the average per teacher was about \$150. A bank in one district had not enough cash in hand to meet the demand and many of the teachers accepted their money on deposit receipt for the time being.

Glasgow, May 14.

Several topics of general interest were discussed at the annual conference of the Scottish National Union of Mine Workers, which concluded at Stirling, on Saturday, after a three days sitting. Reviewing the general situation, Mr. John Robertson, M. P., the chairman, said he did not think the Scottish miners and other workers had ever been so solidly organized as at the present time. During the past year they had passed through strenuous and disquieting times, and influences had been at work that it had been impossible to get past or turn to one side, but he felt there had been

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strikes which might have been averted had a saner policy been adopted. Regarding the wages question, he did not think a mere advance on the pay rate could deal with the cost of living, and he thought the Miners' Federation of Great Britain took a wrong step in 1915, when it decided to follow up the increased cost of living by demanding an increase of wages. The increases they got were only utilized as fire-extinguishers to prevent the men taking drastic action in the demand that had been made for a reduction in the cost of living. If the increases in the cost of living were to be arrested, it would have to be done, not by an advance of wages, but by taking such action as would strike at the very root of the system that was exploiting the workers.

The case for the Labor College was put forward by Messrs. Fleming and Clunie, who explained that the aim of the college was the conquest of the industrial and political world. Education, it was said, was not the patrimony of the well-to-do, but at present it was studiously and scientifically directed towards the keeping of the working classes in subjection, and to the prevention of the will to rule. The aim of the college was the imbuing and engendering in the mind of the working class of the idea that they could and would rule in the no distant future. The students would be instructed, not for the purpose of creating intellectuals, but for the purpose of setting up workers who would devote themselves to the working classes. A resolution expressing whole-hearted sympathy with the work of the college was carried.

Mr. Duncan Graham, M. P., moved that the British Trade Union Congress be asked to link up immediately with co-operative societies for the purpose of feeding workers during strike periods. The principle of the resolution, said Mr. Graham, was a very proper one. At present the money that they were able to save was put into banks owned by private individuals or combinations, and when trouble came they found that their money was largely used to defeat the object for which they were fighting. The resolution received unanimous support, as did another which noted the growing menace to labor following the rapid consolidation and combination of

industrial undertakings, and advised the trade unions affected to take such steps as will permit of general action for mutual protection. On the latter resolution, Mr. William Small said that this action had been made necessary by the rapid growth of trusts, especially in the three great industries, coal, metal and shipbuilding. It would seem difficult, perhaps, to break down the inherent prejudices that prevailed between one union and another, but for their own salvation it was necessary in fighting the common enemy.

### Joiners' Strike

Over 5000 joiners in Glasgow and the West of Scotland, and about 11,000 in all throughout Scotland, came out on strike on Saturday to enforce their claim for a flat rate of 60c. per hour, which would bring their weekly wage up to \$27.50. The men, who are members of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, refused an offer by the employers of an increase of 3c. per hour on present rates as from April 1, the remainder of the claim for an advance of 12c. per hour to be referred to arbitration by the Industrial Court. A ballot was taken of the men and by a majority of almost 3000 it was decided to strike. The strike is now in full swing. Interviewed today with regard to the effect of the strike upon the Glasgow housing schemes, Councillor George Morton, convener of the Housing Committee of Glasgow Corporation, said all the important housing schemes which were being carried out by the Corporation would be temporarily held up. As to the joiners' decision to get into touch with various Local Authorities with a view to offering them direct labor in the housing schemes, Mr. Morton stated that, while the Corporation were most anxious to have the houses completed, they could not interfere with the contracts already placed. To do so would lead to endless trouble and disputes, and the Corporation could not take any side in the matter. It was stated by a representative of the men that a number of the principal firms in and about Glasgow had agreed to pay the 60c. per hour asked for, accordingly the men employed by these firms have returned to work, and the employers will automatically come under the agreement when a general settlement is arrived at.



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# Our OTTAWA LETTER

(From our own Correspondent)

**M**ONDAY the 24th was a parliamentary holiday but the Budget debate has monopolized practically all the rest of the week, apart from the time devoted to questions and fractional periods for routine business. There was also one interlude on Thursday when Sir Robert Borden proposed that the House sit on Saturdays and in the mornings in order to wind a prolonged session, due to the dilatoriness of the Government in the first two months. Day after day was then wasted; people like Mr. H. M. Mowat were encouraged to idle away the time of the House in listening to debates on nonsensical resolutions and Government business was deliberately kept back. Now it comes along with a rush and Mr. King, voiced the opinion of others when he said "It looks as though the Government had sought to bring about what I would call 'one big drive', whereby to put through the House legislation of vital importance to the country under conditions which make impossible proper attention, consideration or criticism."

Of recent years the British House has been in session almost continu-

ously and has not enjoyed more than three months' vacation each year, while the volume and complications of their responsibilities makes their work infinitely more exacting. They have smaller salaries than our members and virtually none of their perquisites. Yet there are at least half of our Federal legislators clamoring for a shortening of the session which can only result in a scamped work and bleating for larger indemnities. Neither request should be granted. It is altogether unseemly for legislators to vote themselves higher salaries; they undertook the duties on the understanding that they would receive a certain recompense for their time and if it is not satisfactory they can resign. It can be admitted that many a member if he has no other source of income may find his salary incommensurate to the demands upon his purse, but those who are in this plight should raise the question frankly in the House and have a full-dress debate upon it, rather than engage in subterranean intrigue with Ministers and furtive agitation as a means to gaining their end. If the opinion of the House is that the present salary is inade-

quate, then they should vote an increase, in no case bringing up the total to more than \$4,000, for the benefit of the next Parliament.

There was never a Parliament which has done so little to deserve better salaries than the present assemblage of talent; it is deficient alike in oratory, debating power, enterprise and humor, and its fund of public spirit is not high. At the Museum there was some excuse for a poor attendance in the House, but now there is none and the attendance is often deplorable. The Pensions Committee has worked hard but none of the others have shown any special activity and the Public Accounts Committee, which used to be such a fruitful mine of scandals, has apparently ceased to function.

It can be admitted, however, that the Budget debate has given a new lease of interest to Parliament and while a pathetic amount of nonsense has been talked, there have also been some interesting and valuable speeches. The Government will secure a majority for their Budget, but it will have a lean and haggard look beside the 71 with which it came into power in 1917 and will probably not exceed 25. If the Fielding amendment had been less confusing, there would have been more defections from the Cabinet than will actually take place. In the end there will be four or five but at present only two have definitely announced their withdrawal of support, Mr. W. W. Buchanan of Lethbridge and Mr. O. H. Wright of Battleford. Mr. Wright is a Conservative who has low tariff views and prefers his principles to his party traditions. In a brief and courageous speech he declared that the debate had convinced him of the hopelessness of expecting any downward revision of the tariff from the present Government and as he had been a consistent supporter of the Farmers' Platform, he must now part company with them.

Mr. Buchanan took the same view; he had found the Minister of the Interior favoring moderate protection and Mr. Ballantyne defining the new Australian tariff which contains numerous duties as high as 40 per cent. as a moderate tariff. So he concluded a man of his views had no place among their following. Mr. Buchanan is unfortunately handicapped by deafness but he is an excellent speaker and a man of sound judgment and great independence of character. He is respected by all parties and his reputation will not be lessened by the fact that he is by his present course deliberately foregoing what is a sound claim to the vacant Alberta senatorship. He thereby stands out in shining contrast to Mr. Douglas of Strathecona, who despite pronounced low tariff views is giving a slavish vote to the Government in the hopes of the said senatorship.

But the defection of Mr. Buchanan is a serious loss. The political managers of the Coalition, Messrs. Calder and Reid, have been straining

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every nerve to keep the waverers in line and promises of experimental farms and other seductive baits have been freely ladled out. A weird rumor appeared in one paper that no less a person than Mr. Calder meditated insurgency, but it was evidently set on foot by some innocent scribe.

The debate was resumed on Tuesday with a duel between Dr. Michael Clark and Mr. Meighen, who hold very divergent views on the tariff issue and other questions. Dr. Clark is pre-eminently the best speaker in the House and Mr. Meighen is probably the most effective debater. Dr. Clark relies on his knowledge of economics and political history for his ammunition, Mr. Meighen on his gifts of advocacy and his acquaintance with Canadian conditions.

Dr. Clark approved of Sir H. Drayton's courage in making a clean breast of the financial condition of the country and an end of borrowing. There his praises ceased and he had nothing but the severest of criticism for most features of the new Budget. The sales' tax he regarded as indefensible and antiquated in the last degree. It was, he said, nothing less than internal tariff and would be disastrous in its effects upon trade. The limits beyond which the luxury tax was to be imposed had been fixed far too low and it would fall upon the ordinary necessities of life. The taxes would be complex and both difficult and expensive to collect and they





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would make for an increase in the cost of living. Little or nothing had been done to reach the hoards of the profiteer and he showed how much more effectively New Zealand had levied her income tax. He found in the Budget ample confirmation of Bernard Shaw's recent jest that this planet was kept by the others as a lunatic asylum.

Mr. Meighen, of course, was prepared to defend every item in the Budget, but in the main he had other fish to fry. His speech was designed to lay down the policy of the Coalition on fiscal matters as he saw it ought to be. Mr. Meighen is not the possessor of a trained economist's mind and as a result the early part of his speech in which he attempted to prove that Britain's free trade system had been a hopeless failure was full of errors. His tale of the decline of British agriculture has no real basis in fact; tested by the number of people employed in the farming industry, the yields per acre, the percentage of national food supplies produced at home, the number and quality of stock and other criteria, British agriculture shows a record of steady progress. Mr. Meighen was also, for one who is usually accurate, very careless in

his facts. He confounded William Booth, the Salvation Army leader, with Charles Booth, the millionaire shipowner, who paid for the great social investigation of London, and he quoted as an economist the Rev. R. B. Gray, who has no pretensions to that title, but is a clerical schoolmaster. He made much of the reports of the special economic commissions appointed by Mr. Asquith to report upon various aspects of trade, but he did not explain that none of their reports, which were produced amid the passions of war, have been acted upon.

He was on more familiar ground when he came to deal with Canadian economic history and he had ample scope for his talent for flouts and jeers in the Liberal record on the fiscal question. He made the most of his opportunities and tried to drive home the argument that the independent progressives were bent upon the ruin of the industries of the country, and the Liberals, though they did not believe in their policy, were supporting it to gain the spoils of office. He pictured the evils of a campaign by two allied forces who would say different things in different parts of the country, but, almost needless to

say, he did not hark upon the example in this art which had been provided by his own party and the Nationalists in 1911. However, the main fact in his speech was that he came out flatfooted for a policy of protection for industries and the tenour of his utterances was largely responsible for the departure of Messrs. Wright and Buchanan. Mr. Meighen is always ready to qualify his support of protection with the words "moderate" or "adequate", and one has to judge what he means by these from the statements of people like Mr. Ballantyne, whose "moderation" is that of Mr. Hughes, the Australian Premier. The net effect of Mr. Meighen's speech was to commit the Coalition, or the child which may emerge from its womb, more deeply to the existing protectionist system. Mr. Meighen strengthened his claims to the leadership among the rank and file in the House and the protectionist forces outside, but he is still faced with the hostility of powerful figures who have the entree to Sir Robert's closet.

Fired by Mr. Meighen's example a whole series of strongly protectionist speeches were made from the Government benches, by Mr. Cockshutt, Mr. Chaplin, Dr. Edwards and Mr. G. B. Nicholson. The latter indulged in a most elaborate fanfaronade of bad economics and extravagant charges. His seat is near Temiskaming and the disaster there touched him keenly. Said Mr. Nicholson in one purple passage: "If all the sacrifices of that awful war are for no other purpose than

to bring about the condition suggested (class warfare) then I say it is in the Providence of God that those boys were taken to their rest before they were forced to live to see the awful futility of that sacrifice."

There was considerable speculation as to whether the Liberals would follow the lead given by Mr. Fielding or that offered by Mr. McMaster. The latter must have been very gratified at the results of his excellent speech, for it is evident that his views have much greater support among the Liberals than Mr. Fielding's. Mr. Pardee made a very good speech and disclaimed the charges that he was a high protectionist, and Mr. Rinfret, who has made a peculiarly favorable impression on the House in a few weeks, expressed low tariff views. At least three other French-Canadian members, Messrs. Trahan, Lanctot and Demers, took the same line; Mr. Trahan made a particularly valuable contribution to the debate and there are few better informed or more studious members in the House. Mr. Lemieux was inclined to hedge on the fiscal issue, but in an oration that was flowery and well illustrated with quotations from the great masters and historical precedents he expressed his undiminished contempt for the Government. The case for the Agrarians was ably presented by Mr. Caldwell, Mr. J. F. Reid and others. The fateful division will not be reached till at least Tuesday as several important people have yet to speak.

J. A. Stevenson.

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## OUR LONDON LETTER

(From our own Correspondent.)

London, May 14th.

THE latest addition to our living costs is \$3.55 on domestic and \$1 on industrial coal and already the miners are saying that if this is the kind of dodge the Government is going to play on the public, they must have increased wages. It has always been an axiom with the miners that wages should follow profits, and as they estimate that another \$100,000,000 is going to the exchequer because of this impost, we may have a new wages demand in the comparatively near future.

One of the most important events in recent days is the formation of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, whose officials enter on their duties on June 1st.

The new union consists of eleven skilled-workers organizations, with a total membership of 480,000. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers is responsible for over 300,000, and naturally J. T. Brownlie and Tom Mann, the chairman and secretary of the A. S. E., have been unanimously elected chairman and secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

Brownlie does not attach tremendous importance to the recent hostile vote on payment of results.

"The whole of the returns from the other societies are not yet in", he said, "but the vote of the A. S. E. about 54,000 to 14,000, is less than 25 per cent. of the membership in Great Britain — the colonial members were not consulted. I do not regard it as the last word on the subject. Many of the votes were influenced by resentment at the district councils having been ignored.

"As soon as the whole of the results are in, we shall communicate them to the Employers' Federation, and I have no doubt it will be possible to resume negotiations with the employers in our proposal to merge all war wages, bonuses and percentages into the basic time rate."

Brownlie is of opinion that were the war advances consolidated into the basic time rate, the members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union would look with more favor on the payment by results proposal.

That is also Tom Mann's opinion. Mann states that if that was done, and employers would accept responsibility for all unemployment in the industry and undertake to adjust working hours so that virtually there should be no unemployment, and for all men to receive wages for every week in the year, the principal objection to payment by results — the fear of unemployment — would be dissipated.

In this connection it is reported

in the May issue of the A. S. E. Monthly Journal and Report that representatives of the engineering unions have met the Engineering and National Employers Federation in conference "to consider the question to what extent the Federation should accept financial responsibility for unemployment."

Sir Allan M. Smith, the chairman of the Employers' Federation, said



## Wash Day and Backache

WASH day is the least welcome day of the week in most homes, though sweeping day is not much better. Both days are most trying on the back.

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the employers' representatives would report the arguments put forward to their constituents in order that the Federation might give the whole question serious consideration and ascertain whether the proposals might be adopted and in what form.

The official report says the representatives of the employers viewed the representations made by the unions sympathetically.

The challenge of John Lewis and Co., the London drapers, to their employees, whose union they refuse to recognize, is to be taken up by the trade union movement.

Speaking as president of the Trades Union Congress, J. H. Thomas, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said at a public demonstration it was amazing that after the experience of fifty years there were still employers who refused to their workers the right of collective bargaining. That was the great principle over which this dispute was being waged.

They, the people, who felt that they were inevitably destined to govern the country, were not going to allow this great principle to be trampled underfoot. There must be an honorable settlement, and one that was recognized as such.

This settlement must include as the first fundamental principle the right of collective bargaining for every employee that the firm engaged. And, he added "we are going to see that you get a fair deal."

P. C. Hoffman (Shop Assistants union) announced to the meeting the decision of the workers at 50 of the wholesale houses in the city not to handle any order from the firm.

A serious situation has arisen in the printing trade owing to a dispute about wages between the Federation of Master Printers and the printing trade unions. Though the dispute has not yet reached the point of complete deadlock, it contains possibilities of sharp conflict.

The facts of the case are these: Printing trade wages are fixed on a national basis except for London, which is treated separately. The Federation of Master Printers and Allied Trades have wage agreements for England and Wales, and separate agreements for Scotland and Ireland, with nearly all of the 23 trade unions connected with the printing industry. In England and Wales the various towns are divided for the purpose of wages rates into six grades, classified according to their population, proximity to industrial centres and order of importance as printing centres.

The first national settlement was made in May, 1919. The standard rates of wages fixed by it ranged from \$18.75 a week in Liverpool and Manchester, to \$15 in the towns of North Wales and in rural districts. In November 1919 an increase of \$1.85 a week all round was agreed to by the federations of the employers and trade unions — \$1.50 to be paid in November and 35c. in January. This advance brought the standard rate for the highest grade to \$20.60 a week, and that for the lowest grade to \$16.85 a week, and these are the rates paid today. In London, under the separate settlement between the Lon-

don Master Printers Association and the trade unions, the present standard rate is \$21.25 a week.

These scales, it should be explained, apply to letterpress printers; but there are settlements on similar lines for the lithographers, binders and other sections of the industry. It must also be understood that the proprietors of London newspapers are not parties to these settlements; they deal with their workpeople through the Newspaper Proprietors Association. The proprietors of newspapers published in other parts of the country have also societies of their own, and are not involved in the master printers' agreements except so far as they carry on jobbing business in addition to newspaper production.

Last month the Federation of Master Printers received a request for a conference with the union to revise the agreement on account of the increase in the cost of living. In London the request was for an advance of \$3.75 a week. Outside London it was for \$5 for men and \$3.10 for women. In Scotland it was for \$5.60 for men and \$3.75 for women. Efforts were made to include London in the negotiations of a national settlement, but the federated trade unions contended that there should be no change in the existing methods of negotiation at the present stage.

Several conferences have been held with regard both to the London demand and the national demand, and an offer has been made by the employers of an advance of \$1.50 a week, which the employers believe would adequately meet the increase in the cost of living since the last advance was granted. This offer the representatives of the trade unions have declined. The employers are now suggesting that the whole position should be reviewed by the Joint Industrial Council of the Printing and Allied Industries, which was established last year. There, for the moment, the question rests.

Ethelbert Pogson.

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## Anti-Strike Bill Gets United States Senate Committee O. K.

Wide Divergence in Mental Attitude  
of U. S. and Canadian Authorities  
Toward Railroad Employees.

(From magazine of Brotherhood of  
Locomotive Firemen and  
Enginemen.)

Press reports of May 13 state that "A sub-committee of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee (of which Senator A. B. Cummins is chairman) decided today to report favorably the Poindexter anti-strike bill for railroads." This anti-strike bill, introduced by Senator Miles Poindexter, of Washington, on April 12, was described on page 3 of our May 1 issue. Evidently this United States Senate sub-Committee is aching for the biggest strike in all history.

There seems to be a wide divergence between the mental attitude of officials in high political positions in Canada toward the working class, or at least toward railroad employees, and that of high public officials in the United States. In the February 15 issue of our Magazine was published an article entitled "Premier Borden Offers Employees Voice in Operation of Government-Owned Railroads in Canada," and which article tells of the meeting of our Canadian Legislation Board and of the Prime Minister's address to the board from which we quote as follows:

"In other countries there have recently been legislative proposals for the prohibition of strikes. It would not be my purpose to have the question approached in that way.

"The members of the railway organizations are citizens of this country, interested like others in its development, its progress and its orderly government.

"Any movement to make permanent and still more efficient the methods which have had such good results during the past eighteen months might well originate with them.

"The problem of administering about 22,000 miles of railway in this country is one of exceptional moment and difficulty. Upon its successful solution probably depends the success of state ownership not only in Canada but the whole North American continent.

"We must give earnest attention to some means by which the employees shall have just representation in the executive administration of this great system. I have given to this question some study in the consideration of the problem as a whole and you may be assured that such a proposal will command my entire sympathy."

What a contrast between this sensible and philosophical utterance of the Prime Minister of Canada,

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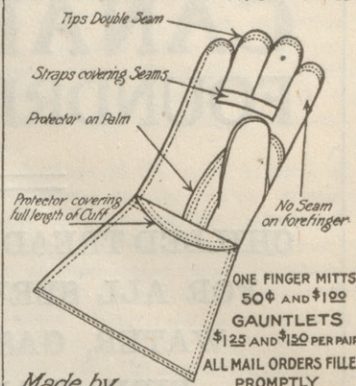
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and the intemperate—the bitterly antagonistic—expressions of, for instance, certain United States Senators toward the aspirations of American railroad employees to participate in railroad management. What a striking difference between Premier Borden's attitude in the premises and the violently intolerant contentions of the Wall Street speculators, their political benchmen and their kept press, that any proposition under which the employees might claim participation in the management and control of the railroads in the United States would be preposterous.

In Premier Borden's viewpoint there is none of the seeing "red" process; none of the ranting about "sovietism," "bolshivism," etc., etc. He deprecates the idea of making the railroad employees an involuntary servitude element in the industrial structure of the nation—an element whose labor is the only essential the price of which the Government limits—an element forced to work under the lash of coercion at the terms dictated by speculating plunderers such as constitute the invisible government of the United States.

No, he accords them full recognition as citizens standing on an equal footing with all other citizens and having an equal interest in the development and progress of their land and its orderly government and he makes clear that state ownership of the transportation industry is the goal to be attained—a state ownership that will mean the operation of that industry for the use of all the people at the cost of maintenance and operation rather than as a producer of fabulous profit for the few at extortionate taxation and service charges to the public. And finally he concedes to the employees the right of just representation in the administration of state-owned railroads.

How long will it be before the people of the United States reach the standard of ownership and control of Government that evidently is enjoyed by the people of Canada?

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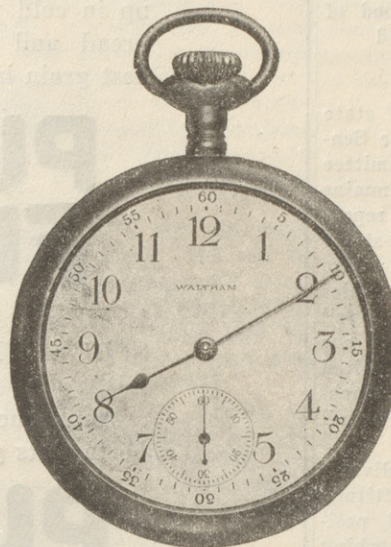


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# The Labor Press

*In view of the International Labor Press Conference which will be held in Montreal during the incoming week, the following article on the labor press from the Christian Science Monitor may be of special interest:—*

No subject comes up more frequently at formal meetings of union men than the press. There is no conclusion more generally accepted than that "Labor must have its own papers." New projects are springing up in all parts of the country, and some of them have already met with substantial success. It was only the other day that the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor founded a daily, to be owned and controlled by unions and their members. During the war the Central Labor Council of Seattle started the Seattle Union Record, first a weekly and then a daily, now reputed to have the largest circulation of any paper in the Northwest. A cooperative news agency, embracing about a dozen Labor papers, has recently begun operations. It is called the Federated Press, and it hopes in time to do for its constituency what the Associated Press has done for the established privately owned dailies.

What is the reason for this sudden demand for newspapers controlled by the unions? For many years the great national unions have had their own journals, whose combined circulation reaches into the millions. Few people outside the Labor movement ever hear of them, and yet they appear week after week and in many cases are sent free of charge to every member of the organization. The American Federation of Labor also has its monthly, The American Federationist. These official journals have been in existence so long that they are taken for granted. Their field is limited; they discuss, as a rule, merely the internal affairs of the respective organizations, and carry official notices. They invariably represent the orthodox leadership, and give little leeway to hostile criticism of the policy or personnel of Labor officialdom. An amusing proof of this failing was given recently by one of the younger officials of a union who was worrying because his journal was losing popularity with the membership. "The paper used to be full of ginger," he said, "because for awhile we were suspended by the American Federation of Labor and could attack Sammy Gompers in every issue. They used to be crazy about that stuff. Now we have been taken back, and all our reading matter is smooth and regular. The readers want some pep. But there isn't any official I can attack."

## The Renegades

In spite of their tameness, these journals did for many years furnish the only labor press of which union members felt a need. For news of the day, for articles on politics, economics, and all the varied interests of the citizen, the workers depended upon the same sources as everyone else. While many papers opposed Labor, there was usually at least one in each important industrial center which was, in union terminology, "fair." Now all that has changed. In a succession

of crises, virtually the entire daily press has been mobilized against one union after another. Aside from any consideration of the issues involved, this development has naturally turned hundreds of thousands of workingmen into bitter enemies of the papers which they used to trust.

Besides the regular union organs, there have been at various times more general labor journals, some of which for a time held a national audience. Such was the National Labor Tribune, published in Pittsburgh, which had a wide circulation in the '90s. Most of these papers, however, were privately owned, and although they managed in many cases to secure the indorsement of an official labor body, their editors were not responsible to the unions. They accepted advertising, and often were no less difficult to influence in behalf of selfish interests than the "capitalist" papers themselves. Many of these journals still survive, with little circulation and influence, and are never heard of except when one of them is induced to take the side of an employer; in that case it is likely to be widely quoted by those interested.

Another type of labor paper is that founded by a political group, such as the Socialist New York Call. In cities where, as in this case, there is no other pro-labor daily, many non-Socialist trade-unionists are learning to depend upon it for information. But few of the Socialist journals survived the war, the Milwaukee Leader being the only other one of prominence in the English language. Those which did survive have had so difficult a struggle against restrictions imposed by the Post Office Department and rising costs that no new ones have been founded. The New Majority, founded in 1919 by the Chicago Federation of Labor, is the official weekly of the Labor Party of the United States. It is edited by a trained newspaper man, and although for a long time it cost the Chicago central body about \$1,000 a month, its circulation is now growing so rapidly that it is paying its own way. Another Labor Party weekly, the Labor Record, has just sprung to life in New York. The most interesting fact about this publication is that it did not originate with the intellectuals or the central committee of the party, but is due wholly to the enterprise of the shipyard workers in Brooklyn.

## Significant Developments.

Perhaps the most successful Labor daily in the nation is the Jewish daily Forward in New York. This was founded in 1897 at a meeting of intellectuals of the newly formed Socialist Party. They conferred all night, debating how they could issue a newspaper without any money. Towards dawn they reached the courageous conclusion that, money or no money, they would begin publication. The mem-

bers hurried to their homes, awoke their neighbors, borrowed \$500, and issued the first number on May 27th. Since then the Forward has, under the editorship of Abraham Cahan, never missed an issue. It now has a circulation of over 200,000, a large building, and a substantial surplus. Unlike most of the other Socialist papers, it has always been close to the trade-unionist movement, since its constituency lies largely among the clothing unions, which have indorsed Socialist political action from their earliest origins.

Two new developments of significance may now be expected. One is the founding of a chain of papers controlled by central bodies such as the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor. The Federated Press and the Farmer-Labor cooperative movement will probably take the initiative in this enterprise. The chain will embrace prominent journals already in existence, such as the New York Call, the Seattle Union Record, the Butte Bulletin, the Wheeling Majority, and others. The new papers will be distinguished in several ways from most Labor journals of the past. They will, in the first place, be owned by large sections of the trade-union movement itself rather than by individuals, sep-

arate unions, or political groups. They will attempt to serve their readers as distributors of genuine news rather than as propaganda sheets. Editorial opinion will be confined to the editorial page. And, most important of all, they will derive the chief part of their income from their subscribers. Probably most of them will begin without any advertising solicitors at all.

A press of this sort, in spite of its usefulness to the Labor movement, will, however, have its limitations. It must move with the crowd, and will be at least under some obligation not to oppose the official positions of the leaders. Over it there is bound to be exercised much the same sort of discipline that the Republican and Democratic Party organizations used to exercise over the "regular" party organs. There will be need also for a free-lance Labor press which has "nothing to sell" such as a political party, but at the same time can devote itself to friendly and helpful criticism of the trade-union movement. Such journals will be owned and controlled by individuals or small groups: They will furnish the focal points for minority opinion, and will supply the ferment without which no organism can grow.

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## Our Reliable Newspapers

### The Parallel Reveals a Curious Discrepancy Between Herald and Gazette Reports.

(By KENNEDY CRONE)

LOCAL and foreign gentlemen of the press have informed me on several occasions, and by various processes of imparting knowledge, that it would be a black day indeed when Canadian journalists were unionized. Journalists would then develop a class prejudice; they would suppress or distort the news in favor of the labor movement; they would control editorial policy; gone would be the great liberty and fairness and truthfulness of the public press, the guardian of the interests of the people (cheers).

Having been inside the press for about twenty-two years, I know the information is not given for my personal enlightenment.

If it came from some very fine publishers it is my pleasure to know, I might think it was, though I would also think it surprising. But it does not come from them. It comes from those, rather, who do not expect in a thousand years to convince me of my errors, and would not take the trouble, anyway; the only kind of convincing they would like to operate on me is the kind that is done with an axe.

The information is really to be passed on a later date to that vague yet powerful thing called public opinion, as a proof that they did their pious best to save the souls of those dreadful unionists, but that the poor, benighted unionists refused to have their souls saved. Piety is to be the cloak for "putting things over."

Well, public opinion is not as malleable as it used to be. It is notable how many people to-day are from Missouri. I know that the part of public opinion represented by organized labor resembles Bessemer steel when a newspaper publisher or editor puts on his white robes and pins medals on himself for the benefit of said public opinion. (For the fun of the thing, I'd like to move in Montreal Trades and Labor Council a vote of thanks for the square deal given by the press to organized labor!).

Last week, you may recollect, the Railroader gave you an example of newspaper suppression of news. This week, ladies and gentlemen, we have a shining example of the truthfulness of the press which press unionism would destroy. The Gazette, the Herald and the Star each reported the opening of a cabaret called the Blue Bird Cafe. The Star report appears to be a rehash of the Gazette report. I do not know which report is accurate, or whether any one of them is wholly accurate, but it is obvious that the cogs slipped pretty badly somewhere.

To begin with, let us look at a few sentences in parallel.—

#### HERALD, MAY 31

It was so exclusive that one third of the tables were empty. Attendance far below capacity.

Montreal is apparently fed up on cabaret cafes of the strictly dry variety.

The lady cabaret performers have solved the problem of the high cost of clothing by dispensing with it.

Earl and Marie Gates gave a jazz dance that probably originated in Hawaii, stopped for repairs on the Barbary Coast, was overhauled by the Paris Apache specialists, and trimmed up on the Bowery.

Here are the complete reports from the Herald and the Gazette:—

(Herald, May 31.)

**DRY CABARET SHOW DIDN'T MAKE APPEAL**

**Charges At New Local Cafe Five Dollars Per Plate, and There is Nothing On It:**

Montreal is apparently fed up on cabaret cafes of the strictly dry variety.

Someone has said that no com-

#### GAZETTE, MAY 31

The full capacity of five hundred was exhausted by Saturday night's attendance.

Opened under auspices which could not have been more favorable or enjoyable.

For gorgeousness and variety of costuming the revue has never perhaps been surpassed by any attraction seen in Montreal.

Revue differs only in duration from the offerings of its kind sent out by Flo Ziegfeld and the Shuberts, for its quality both of material and of personnel is of the best.

pletely sober person could enjoy jazz music, or enter into the real spirit of the cabaret unless there had previously been some very personal communication with spirits of another and more ardent variety. Possibly Montreal has found this to be a fact, for the opening of the much-heralded Blue Bird cabaret on Saturday night attracted an attendance that was far below capacity. There were many empty tables and a noticeable lack of the enthusiasm which used to prelude gatherings of this variety in the good old days prior to May 1, 1919,

**GOOD TO THE LAST PUFF**

**BIG BEN-BEY**

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*White Star Yeast Cakes*  
*never fail.*  
*Distributors* **Macdonald-Cooper Limited**  
 EDMONTON & CALGARY

after the waiters had made a few round trips There and Back.

#### The Only Scotch.

The only Scotch in evidence at the Blue Bird Saturday night was a brief spasm of bag-piping provided by a kilted quartette. And the real conviviality of the evening was confined to one table, the far-seeing host of which had come armed to the teeth with the beverage which made Geneva, Holland, famous. Envious eyes at other tables allowed the generously-exposed backs of the professional dancers to shrug, their powdered way almost unnoticed as they watched in fascinated fashion the passage from hand to hand at the far-seeing host's table of a bottle that brought back memories of the dear old days when gin was to be had for the asking.

There were no corkage charges, and the house provided the ice free, and the ginger ale at twenty-five cents per small bottle. And what more does anyone need to render a cabaret evening joyous?

Elsewhere the true cabaret spirit was lacking. Near-beer flowed like water — too much like water. The lemonade shimmered in its frosted glasses, the ginger ale bubbled merrily, and the orangeade glinted its mellow lights. But they didn't give you that holiday feeling.

#### Hist! Tuesday's the Night!

The most cheering event of the evening was the news brought by our waiter that on Tuesday the Blue Bird was going to have a license for beer and wine.

The opening of the Blue Bird was announced for eleven o'clock, and just about that hour, some hundred people, ladies and gentlemen, gathered in front of the establishment

#### THE OLD RELIABLE

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**LINIMENT**  
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to find that the doors were still unopened. From within came the sounds of frantic hammering, as carpenters and decorators worked frantically to get on sufficient touches to do for the evening and cover up those portions which still remain to be done. It was considerably after the advertised hour that the main entrance was opened, and considerably after that again when the tangle over seats had been straightened out for the time being. Another tangle developed when the cabaret performance started, and about half the audience found they were seated behind huge and entirely opaque posts.

#### Nubians or Nudians.

The cabaret performance was heralded by the appearance of two huge colored gentlemen billed as



Nubians. We presume this was intended for Nudians, judging by the scantiness of their attire. If Jake and Fletcher, as they were christened, by the programme, had removed their turbans and wrist watches, they would easily pass for Jack Johnson outfitted for ring action. We presume the colored gentlemen will be dispensed with when the weather becomes warmer.

The lady cabaret performers have solved the problem of the high cost of clothing by dispensing with it. The majority were lightly clad in rice powder. Miss Vanda Hoff was attired in a veil and transparent chiffon draperies for her dance act. If chiffon is a dollar a yard, Miss Vanda Hoff didn't do much damage to a dime when she bought her outfit. The patrons saw a lot of Miss Vanda Hoff during the evening as she whirled in the mazes of a barefooted and bare elsewhere dance.

Earl and Marie Gates gave a jazz dance that probably originated in Hawaii, stopped for repairs on the Barbary Coast of San Francisco, was overhauled by the Paris Apache specialists and trimmed up on the Bowery. There was this to be said for it: Miss Gates is evidently the highest paid performer in the troupe, for she was able to afford stockings. Vanda Hoff may have loaned Miss Gates the stockings, for certainly she had none for her own dance. May be the rest of her clothing was loaned out, too, though in her initial gance it must be admitted that she retained a lovely string of beads for evening wear.

The charges were moderate—only five dollars a plate, and the plates were right there, to prove that there was no deception. The five dollar charge did not include any edible decorations for the plates—that was extra, as the summer boarding-house land-ladies remark. If the idea of a five-dollar charge was to keep the cabaret exclusive, the management succeeded, and succeeded possibly beyond their expectations. It was so exclusive that one-third of the tables were empty.

(Gazette, May 31.)

#### BLUE BIRD CAFE UNIQUE RESORT

Novel and Exclusive Features Mark  
New Dancing Resort Opened  
Saturday

#### REVUE REAL SURPRISE

Musical Performance Is Not Surpassed in Quality of Material or Personnel by Touring Companies

Montreal's most novel and most exclusive dancing resort, the Blue Bird Cafe, Bleury street, was opened on Saturday evening under auspices which could not have been more favorable or more enjoyable, and which gave every promise of a flourishing career for the new vent-

ure. The quiet richness of the color scheme, with the predominant notes of blue and orange, the presence of many prominent social figures, the splendid dancing floor, the excellence of the cuisine, the enlivening music provided by Yerkes' orchestra, and especially the surprising quality of the musical revue presented by Andre Sherri's company, all combined to make the occasion a pleasurable one for those who had the good fortune to be present.

The feature which marks the new cafe as a distinct departure in policy from that of any enterprise of



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--is Different--

two seasons ago; Miss Julia Gifford, the prima donna, is well known in musical comedy circles, and is the possessor of a charming voice and an equally charming personality, and Mr. Mario Villani, the leading male singer, has a resonant voice in which sweetness and power are blended and he himself makes a picturesque figure, whether in costume or in conventional evening garb. The other principals are Earl and Marie Gates, eccentric and comedy dancers, and Del Marie, a piquant soubrette. These five are supplemented by a chorus of a dozen young and vocally-gifted girls, whose attractions have nothing to fear from the close range scrutiny to which they are subjected.

#### Revue Speedy In Action

For gorgeousness and variety of costuming the revue has perhaps never been surpassed by any attraction seen in Montreal, while a notable thing is the celerity with which the programme is carried through. Not even the Follies, which first set the standard for expedition in change from one item to the next, exceeds the pace set by the present offerings, for no sooner have the curtains been drawn upon the conclusion of one number than they open for the next. Thirteen original and enjoyable concert numbers or specialty acts are given in the one hour space which is devoted to each performance of the revue.

Yerkes' orchestra is not only an organization thoroughly trained in the rendition of the popular brand of jazz, but from its membership it supplies a Highland pipe band, a saxophone sextette and other combinations whose special numbers furnish variety to the evening and add to the general gaiety.

The opening had been originally fixed for Thursday evening, but unforeseen delays compelled a postponement until Saturday. Even then some few details remained to be completed, such as the connection of the fans and the furnishing of the retiring rooms, but these will be in place by tonight. The postponement resulted in the cancellation of a number of reservations by parties leaving town for the week-end, but there were more than enough eager applicants for their places, and the full capacity of five hundred was exhausted by Saturday night's attendance.

—:o:—

the kind hitherto existing in Montreal is "The Blue Bird Revue," a cabaret performance which, introduced from a miniature stage at the rear of the chamber, is continued on the dancing floor, thus giving the spectators not only a more intimate view but also a added sense of participation in the show. The revue differs only in duration from the offerings of its kind sent out by Flo Ziegfeld and the Shuberts for its quality both of material and of personnel is of the best. The premiere danseuse is Vanda-Hoof, seen here as a vaudeville headliner about



# ROBBERY SAYS MURDOCK OF SUGAR SALE.

## Three Middlemen Had Profits On Deal That Starts Ottawa Probe.

Herald, June 2.

Ottawa, June 2. — When the firm of Provost and Allard told the Board of Commerce yesterday of the purchase of two cars of sugar from Robert Anderson, of Montreal, at 23 1-2 cents a pound, after it had been "handled" three times at a profit, and admitted that this firm sold some to local grocers at 27 cents a pound, commissioner James Murdock remarked: "You started out to get \$1,640 more on the purchase than normal profit. In the meantime three speculators had handled this sugar at a profit. I regard it as highway robbery, if not worse."

The hearing brought out the fact that Provost and Allard, who are wholesale grocers in Ottawa, bought this sugar because they could not get a better deal. They knew that refiners were selling at \$19.98 per hundredweight. Joseph Ward, Montreal, Vaughan Bros., Magog, Que., and Anderson were the three middlemen. They all had to share the 3 1-2 cent a pound profit. Provost and Allard stated that they sold a few bags at 27 cents a pound to grocers because they knew that the refiners' price would cause them a loss unless they could get that price. The wholesalers' normal profit was five per cent above cost. Mr. Allard agreed with Commissioner O'Connor that this was higher than ever before.

Wholesalers formerly made 25 cents a hundredweight.

Mr. O'Connor stated that the inquiry would be widened in scope. While the refiner was selling at \$19.98, this wholesaler was selling at 27 cents and one grocery firm sold to one consumer at 36 cents, though this firm afterwards refunded six cents a pound having meant to charge only 30 cents. The Board of Commerce would probe the cause of those unreasonable prices.

# MONTREAL TAXI MEN COMPLAIN

(From Jack Canuck, Toronto, May 29.)

We have received a complaint on behalf of the taxi drivers of the Yellow Taxicab Company of Montreal. It is claimed that the drivers have to work 12 hours a day, seven days a week, 84 hours in all, for \$25, but if a man who works on the noon to midnight shifts puts in three hours' overtime, and then has to wait until 5 a. m. for a street car to get home, and happens to be late the next day, he is fined \$1.50, so that he is actually 15 cents worse off than if he had not worked overtime at all. We think that the Director of Public Safety, who has control over car traffic, should investigate this matter.

# SUGAR NINE CENTS A POUND IN AUSTRALIA

Edw. G. Theodore, the Labor Party premier of the State of Queensland, Australia, was in Washington recently observing the meth-

ods of American politicians. He is the man who planned the public control of meat, sugar and other food supplies of his State when his party took charge in August, 1915. Head of the Australian Workers' Union in his State, he was premier at 35 years of age. He broke up the sugar monopoly, curbed the meat packers—including Swift and Armour, who have plants there—and today sugar sells at retail for 9 cents a pound, and will be sold at that price for at least two years; beef steak can be had at 16 cents a pound. Equally important, the labor employed in these industries gets an arbitrated living wage as the first step in arriving at the costs of production and of handling. The profiteering middleman is wholly shut out.

Mr. Theodore says that the Labor party in Australia is a natural expression of a closely-organized Labor Movement. Labor down there does not make political demands of professional or business men holding public office; it talks only to the public, offering its programme and its own candidates.

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# A CANADIAN TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION

(From May number of Printer and  
Publisher, Toronto.)

A Montreal report states:—That the strike of the printers on the Montreal Star, which has failed and will be settled by return of the men on the terms offered by the newspaper, is not finished, but is part of a larger movement of a fight against the International Typographical Union, was indicated to-day. It is said that an effort is being made to form a Canadian Typographical Union; three cities—Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal—have already taken into consideration this project, which may be given further support by the developments of the next few days in Toronto, where the printers have made demands for a wage of \$40.80 a week.

# A CHILD ON THE STREET

Strange that she can keep with ease  
A pace so free and fleet,  
When such relentless destinies  
Stalk at her feet.

Strange she does not see the blur  
Where their shadows run  
With her footfall, sinister  
In the sun.

Some are vague as shadow cast  
By clouds where long hills dip,  
And some sharp like the broken  
Of a drifted ship. [mast

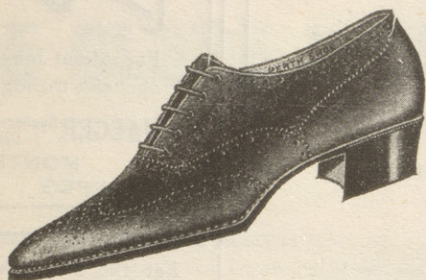
Still with her incredulous tread  
Defying the darkened ground,  
She keeps a pace whose echoes shed  
Laughing sound.

And still close at her tripping heel  
The old shadows stir,  
Deepening as they steal  
Nearer her.



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The people of a nation cannot advance beyond the men who make its laws, and the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada exists to see to it that the workers by hand and brain are directly represented in the law-making bodies of the Dominion; to find, train and elect the right men of our own class in order to secure the kind of legislation that will protect and advance the interests of the workers.

It will wage warfare on plutocracy, despotism, economic privileges, and upon all the evil forces which burden the people and rob them of that happiness of living which is their fundamental right.

It is a non-partisan educational and political association, and because of the manner in which it is organized can never become the instrument or plaything of a small group of any class, particularly of wealthy men. The aim is the attainment of true democracy.

### WE PLEDGE OURSELVES:—

To support all municipal, provincial and federal educational plans where the evident purpose is to raise the standard of education in enlightened and progressive ways; to present truthfully and fearlessly through the medium of Fifth Sunday Meetings and our own press, the "Canadian Railroader", the latest and most important political, social and industrial developments;

To advocate the abolition of property qualifications for the franchise or for election to public office; the adoption of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and of proportional representation in all forms of public government; universal suffrage for both sexes, on the basis of one person, one vote; the transfer of taxes from improvements, and all products of labor, to land values, incomes and inheritances;

To advocate prison reform, including introduction of the honor and segregation systems, and abolition of contract labor; the enactment and rigid enforcement of child labor laws; pensions for mothers with dependent children; regulation of immigration to prevent lowering of industrial, political or social standards; development of the postal savings and parcel post systems; financial and other assistance to farmers through co-operative banks and by other means; government development of co-operative producing and trading associations for the benefit of the consumer;

To advocate extension of workmen's housing schemes and the labor bureau system; provision of technical education for every willing worker, according to his capacities; more effective inspection of buildings, factories, workshops and mines; minimum wages; a rest period of not less than a day and a half per week for every worker; government insurance of workers against sickness, injury and death; maternity benefits and old-age pensions; better Workmen's Compensation Acts; representation of the workers on all public boards and on boards for the supervision of private enterprises; union labor conditions in all government work; adequate pensions and opportunities for soldiers and their dependents;

To advocate freedom of speech and of the press, and a law compelling all newspapers and periodicals to publish in all issues a complete list of shareholders and bondholders.

"The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada" is financed entirely by its members who contribute \$2 a year in membership fees. If a local has been established in your city \$1 remains in the local treasury and the other dollar is sent by the local organization to our Dominion Headquarters, 60 Dandurand Building, Montreal, Que. In case no local has been established in your community, send the membership fee of \$2 directly to Dominion Headquarters.

The funds accumulating in the Dominion Headquarters are used for political and educational propaganda; the development of the organization; the preparation of pamphlets and leaflets and the financing of the various political campaigns where favorable opportunities develop, to elect our candidates. The treasurer is under bond and the books are audited by a firm of accountants.

An application blank will be found below. Merely fill out the application blank, buy a postal order for \$2 and send it to Dominion Headquarters. Your membership card will be forwarded by return mail. Join this great organization in the interests of education and clean politics. *Today is the day and this is the hour. Become a member now.*

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To the Secretary,

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I hereby make application for membership in "The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada." I subscribe and agree to pay, while a member, the yearly fee of \$2.00 in advance.

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Date..... City.....

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Make all cheques and money orders payable to "The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada."

Official membership card will be mailed from headquarters, with copy of platform, constitution and general rules.



## ON BEING FIRED

By ROY CARMICHAEL

The other day a friend of mine was "fired". To hear him talk of it you would have thought the end of the world had come. The disgrace was almost more than he could bear, and he pled with me to soften the blow for him by writing a paragraph in his local paper announcing his forthcoming departure for other fields in such a way so as to make it appear that he was going to a new and much more important position. Above everything else he wished to keep his friends and neighbors from suspecting that his severance from his job was not entirely voluntary.

I could not help reflecting that here was a concrete illustration of the evil of our employment system in non-unionized occupations. The worker who has no union to back him lives ever beneath the shadow of his employer's displeasure. For him has been created the fetish that "being fired" means disgrace, and to avoid that cataclysm he is willing to endure more contumely, subordinate his independence of spirit, and become in reality a wage slave.

Yet what are the facts. An employee who sells his services is surely entitled to the same respect and freedom as a business man who sells his product. If a business man finds his customer discontinuing the purchase of his wares he will inquire the reason and make use of such arts of salesmanship as he possesses to induce him to continue. But if the customer does not want his wares the seller does not feel disgraced. He finds a market elsewhere. If a high official of a big corporation disagrees with the board on the matter of policy and insists that he is right, they part, but there is no humiliation — only a difference of opinion. Why then should the clerk or other minor wage or salary earner feel a stigma rests on him when his employer has no further use for his services? There are so many reasons possible for the break. The probability is that but for this false shame over being fired the employee would long before have spoken up and told his employer some home truths. Because an employer does not want a man it does not follow that the man is inefficient. It is just as likely that he is efficient and knowing himself to be so has shown too much independence and self-respect for his employer's liking. In such a case it is an honor and a tribute to be fired.

In these days there is work of some kind for every efficient man, and there is no need for any worker to allow his employer to crush his spirit and deprive him of his self esteem. Let him hold his head up and uphold his rights as a man. Then if the clash comes, and the employer shows that he prefers a slave, the parting will add dignity to the employee's manhood. It will be to him as a badge of courage, and a stimulus to greater things.

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Let the man who has been fired review his conduct. If he is convinced that he has saved his self-respect and that with it he can bring to a new employer proof of his efficiency he need not hang his head when applying for another post, and cringingly let it be supposed he was "kicked out" of his former job. If asked why he left he has the answer that one business man can give another. He can, if he wishes, admit that he was fired. But let him do it boldly and proceed to give the reason.

One never hears of a union man whining that he was fired. He may be "laid off", and if so he understands the circumstances and knows that there will be work elsewhere. He does not feel disgraced and knows he is not. Above all he realizes that so long as he performs his duty faithfully he is not at the mercy of an employer's whim. He cannot be influenced by the fear that he will be persecuted if he does not make himself his employer's body servant as is the case with some poor office men. He will neither have his salary reduced nor have advance withheld. His employer respects him because his union keeps its pledges and has the strength of will and character and number which will enable it to take a stand against injustice.

As a member of a union the worker needs no testimonies from his last employer. His membership in his union is a guarantee that he can do his work, and that is all that he is paid for. Let the office worker or shop assistant who dreads his employer's wrath reflect over the happy state of his unionized brother. And let action follow reflection, so that the day will come when no man through fear of another will relinquish his birthright of self-respect, and work in daily terror of hearing he is fired.

—:0:—

### FRANCE MAY BONUS LARGE FAMILIES

The establishment of a national fund for large families, proposed by M. Correard, has been approved in resolutions passed at a meeting of the French natality commission. The fund will be raised by taxes imposed upon bachelors and upon heads of families who have reached a certain age and have less than three living children.



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## New Christianity Born of Labor Is With Us Now

Both Catholic and Protestant Churches Passing, Says Rev. Dr. Salem Bland.

Gazette, June 1st.

Toronto, June 1.—Rev. Dr. Salem Bland, pastor of Broadway Methodist Tabernacle, this city, whose advanced labor views brought him into collision with some of the members of the quarterly official board of Broadway Tabernacle last year, who vainly tried to have Dr. Bland removed from the pastorate of that church, has published a book entitled "The New Christianity." It is thought that some of the views expressed in this volume may start a controversy among Methodists.

"Capitalistic control", says Dr. Bland in his book, "has, no doubt, played a necessary and useful part in the social evolution. It has shown courage and enterprise, but it has been, on the whole, rapacious and heartless and its sense of moral responsibility has been often rudimentary. When the managers on whom it depends desert to the side of the workers it will be patent how little capacity or service is in capitalism

and how little it deserved the immense gains it wrung from exploited labor and skill."

Dr. Bland predicts that the bitter conflict between capital and labor will cease to be, because capital will cease to be a factor in the affairs of men, and "only labor, in the broadly exclusive sense of the term, will remain."

Brotherhood and democracy, the two great principles of the new Christianity, according to Dr. Bland, cannot be found in sufficient measure either in Protestantism or Roman Catholicism, and in this connection, he states, that Protestantism must pass away.

"It is too rootedly individualistic," Dr. Bland says, "too sectarian, to be the prevailing religion of a collectivist age. It is passing away before our eyes. Everywhere it reveals the marks of decay or of transformation. It must change or die."

The age now dawning, Dr. Bland says, belongs neither to Protestantism or Catholicism, but to a new Christianity which will have affinities with them both, but still more deeply with the Christianity of Jesus. This Christianity, indeed, is already here. Like its Master when He came, it is in the world and the world knows it not."

### Rap at Protestantism

Dr. Bland refers to Protestantism as "bourgeois Christianity," and says further, "It is the Christianity of the middle or trading classes.

Protestantism, by its very origin, is Christianity shaped to suit the trading and the manufacturing classes."

With reference to the labor movement, Dr Bland says:

"But in promise and potency the coming Christianity is more fully and truly here in the labor movement than in any of the great historic church organizations. Perhaps a more accurate statement would be that the labor movement needs less radical change than the great church organizations to become the fitting and efficient Christianity for the new age."

Dr. Bland says: "The need is not so much that labor become Christian as that it become conscious that it is Christian and can realize itself and win its triumph only on Christian lines. It is not strange after all that among workingmen should arise the church which is to give the truest interpretation of Christianity. The Lord Jesus was Himself a workingman and brought up in a workingman's house. Labor and Christianity then are bound up together. Together they stand or fail. They come into their kingdom together or not at all."

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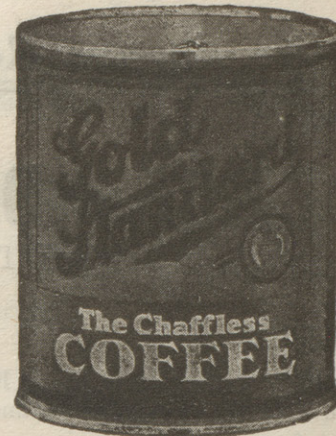
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